

**MARVEL**

**LEGACY**

**WAR AT THE GATES OF HELL**

**2**



**GISCHLER  
BALDEÓN  
MOSSA**



# SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE™





**F**or eons, the scales balancing the supernatural realms have held steady...until now. Only the strangest of alliances can save Heaven and Hell...a union of disparate heroes, counteracting the sins of mortals as...

# SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE

After being handed a silver bullet by a dying angel, Johnny Blaze (A.K.A. Ghost Rider) turned to Daimon Hellstrom for answers.

Unbeknownst to them, the silver bullet was the property of a human sorcerer named Necrodamus, who is desperate to get the enchanted metal back. His lieutenant, Razan the Night Jackal, was entrusted to retrieve the silver and prevent knowledge of their existence from spreading by any means necessary...

Meanwhile, Hellstrom's contacts in the supernatural underworld confirmed his worst fears: something much bigger is afoot and it could mean the end of everything. With the stakes impossibly high and time running short, Daimon called for backup: the vampire hunter known as Blade!

## WAR AT THE GATES OF HELL

### PART II

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Dedicated to ALBRECHT DÜRER





I APPRECIATE YOUR ACCOMMODATING US ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, EDUARDO.



ALWAYS HAPPY TO ASSIST MY LONGTIME CLIENTS, MR. HELLSTROM. THANK YOU FOR PHONING AHEAD.

IT GAVE ME TIME TO RETRIEVE THIS PARTICULAR TOME FROM THE ARCHIVES.

OBLIGED. WHAT DO I OWE YOU?

ON THE HOUSE, MR. HELLSTROM.



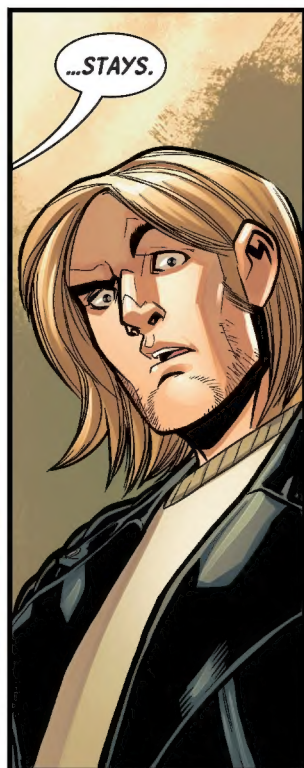
WELL, THAT'S... **GENEROUS.** BUT WHY?



COMPENSATION. YOU SEE...AH...HOW TO PUT THIS?

MOST EMBARRASSING. I HOPE YOU REALIZE THIS IS NOTHING PERSONAL.

YOU AND THE HALF-BREED ARE FREE TO LEAVE. MR. BLAZE, HOWEVER...



...STAYS.

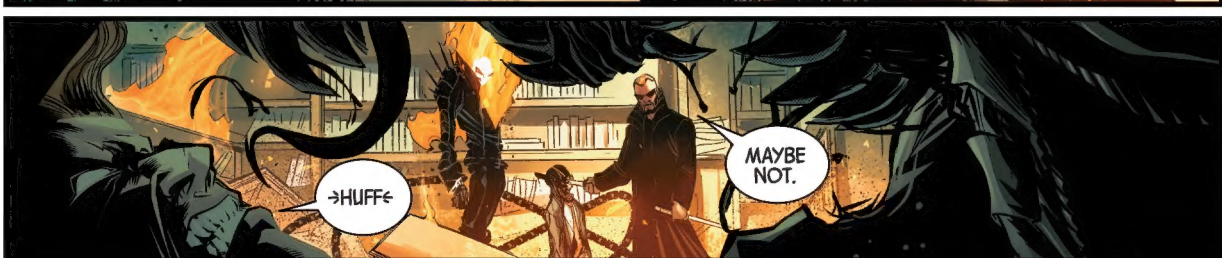
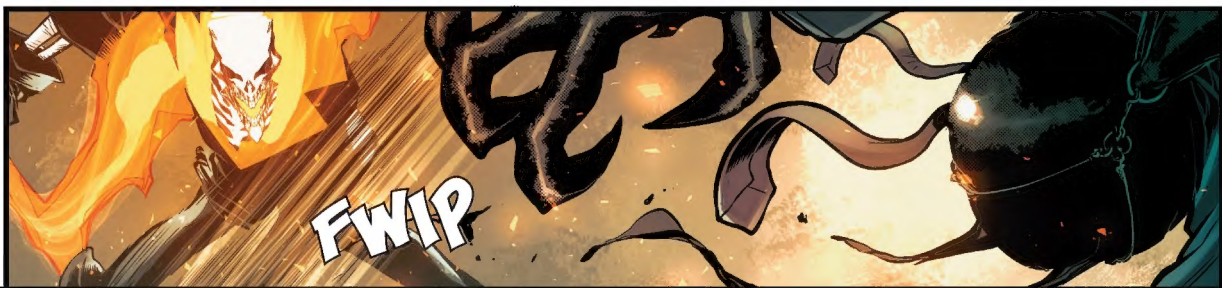
















I'M  
DISAPPOINTED,  
EDUARDO.

AND  
AFTER GIVING  
YOU SO MUCH OF  
MY BUSINESS OVER  
THE YEARS.



NNGH!

DID HE  
VIOLATE YOUR TRUST,  
HELLSTROM?

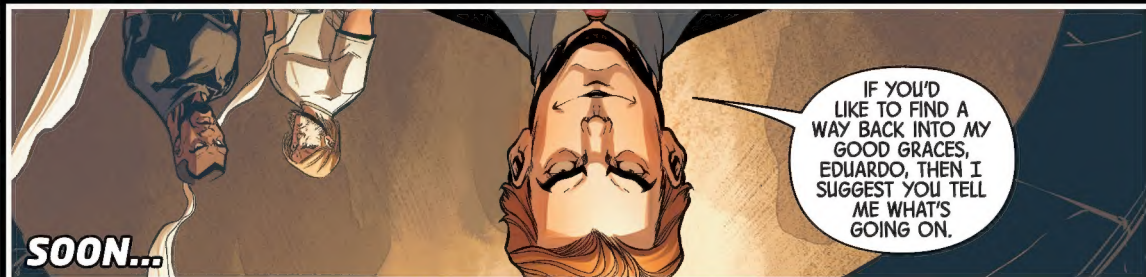


YOU WANTED  
**JOHNNY BLAZE**,  
DEMON COCKROACH? WELL,  
YOU GOT THE **GHOST  
RIDER**. BE CAREFUL WHAT  
YOU WISH FOR.

JOHNNY,  
DON'T!

LET'S HAVE  
A FRIENDLY  
CHAT.





SOON...

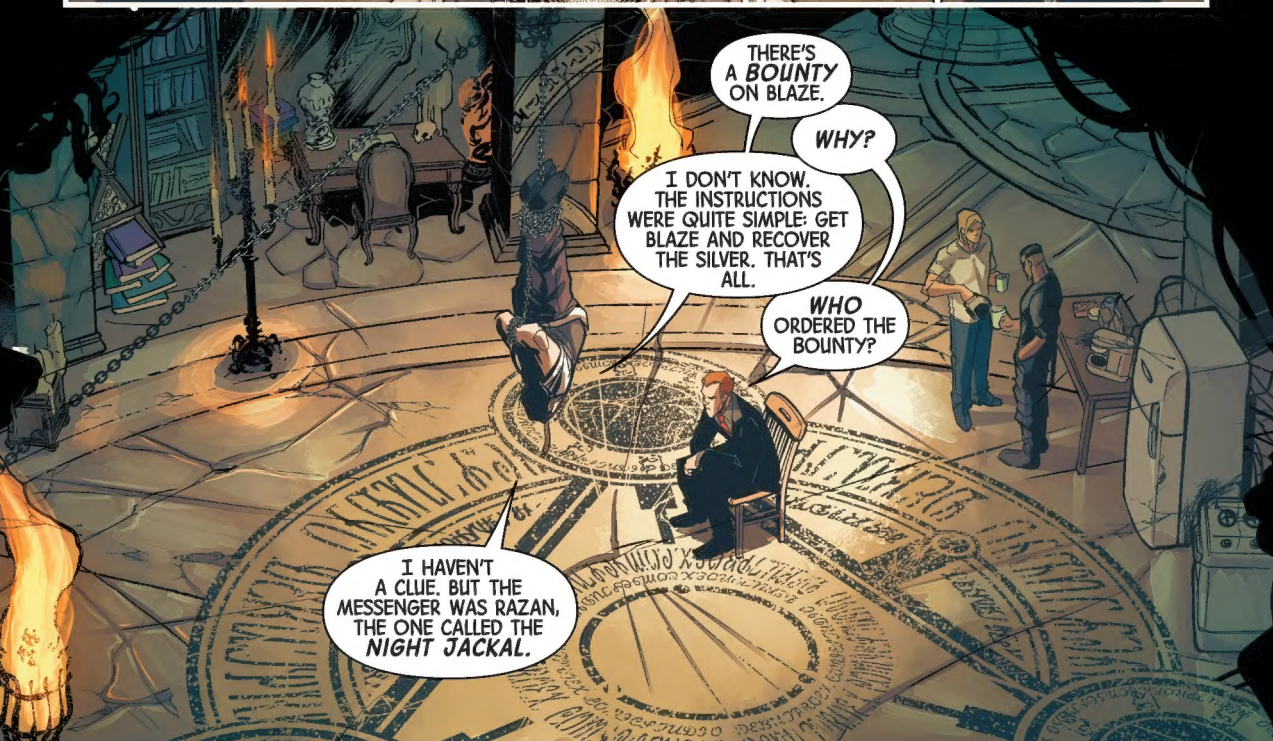
IF YOU'D LIKE TO FIND A WAY BACK INTO MY GOOD GRACES, EDUARDO, THEN I SUGGEST YOU TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.



OF COURSE, MR. HELLSTROM.

AND AGAIN, I'M DREADFULLY SORRY AND HOPE THIS UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING WON'T DAMAGE OUR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP IN A WAY THAT--

CUT TO THE CHASE, PLEASE.



THERE'S A BOUNTY ON BLAZE.

WHY?

I DON'T KNOW. THE INSTRUCTIONS WERE QUITE SIMPLE: GET BLAZE AND RECOVER THE SILVER. THAT'S ALL.

WHO ORDERED THE BOUNTY?

I HAVEN'T A CLUE, BUT THE MESSENGER WAS RAZAN, THE ONE CALLED THE NIGHT JACKAL.



SHE INSISTED THE JOB HAD TO BE DONE BY TOMORROW NIGHT.

SHE WAS VERY CLEAR ON THAT POINT.

I SWEAR THAT'S ALL I KNOW.



THEY WANT THE SILVER BY TOMORROW NIGHT...

DAIMON, YOU'VE BEEN SAYING SOMETHING WAS COMING...



IT'S CALLED THE COVENANT.



# POPOCATEPÉTL VOLCANO, MEXICO.

"I TAKE IT YOU  
RECEIVED THE NEW  
SPECIFICATIONS?"

YES. THAT GLOOMY  
CREATURE WHO SERVES  
YOU BROUGHT THEM.  
RAZAN?

AND I TOLD YOU.  
THIS IS NO NORMAL  
METAL I'M WORKING.  
I'M NOT SHOEING  
A HORSE.

ONLY THE FIRES OF  
THE EARTH ITSELF ARE  
HOT ENOUGH TO  
BEND IT TO MY  
WILL.

BUT RIGHT  
NOW THE SPIRIT IS  
**FRAGMENTED**. YOU  
WILL NEED **ALL** THE PIECES  
IF YOU WANT THE WEAPON  
TO REACH ITS FULL  
POTENTIAL.

KLANG

YOU'LL  
HAVE THEM  
SOON.

EVER HAVE MY  
DWARVEN BRETHREN  
WORKED THE ETERNAL  
FORGES, BUT ONLY I  
DARE TO DO SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS, TO ACHIEVE  
THE FORBIDDEN.

BRING ME THE  
REST OF THE SILVER,  
NECRODAMUS...

...AND I  
SHALL FORGE YOU  
A WEAPON TO SHAKE  
THE WORLD TO ITS  
FOUNDATIONS.

"OKAY, I'LL  
BE THE ONE  
TO ASK..."





...WHAT'S THE COVENANT?

AN ANCIENT AGREEMENT.

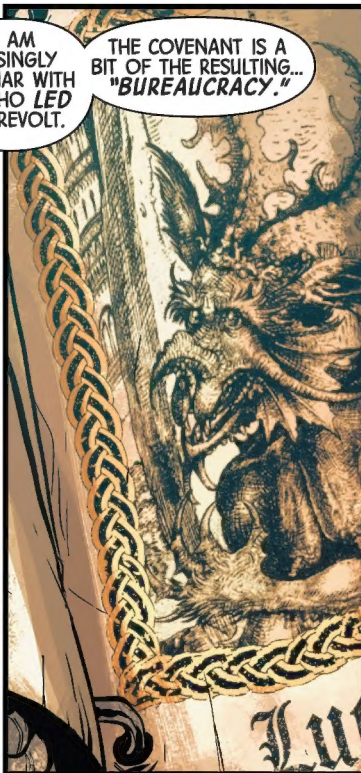


I ASSUME YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE STORY, THE BASICS AT LEAST--

A REVOLT IN HEAVEN, A THIRD OF THE ANGELS EXPELLED--KNOWN FROM THEN ON AS DEMONS.

I AM PASSINGLY FAMILIAR WITH HE WHO LED THE REVOLT.

THE COVENANT IS A BIT OF THE RESULTING... "BUREAUCRACY."



YEAH, NOT FOLLOWING THAT.

THINK OF IT AS...A SORT OF DIPLOMATIC SUMMIT HELD EVERY THOUSAND YEARS.



BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL.



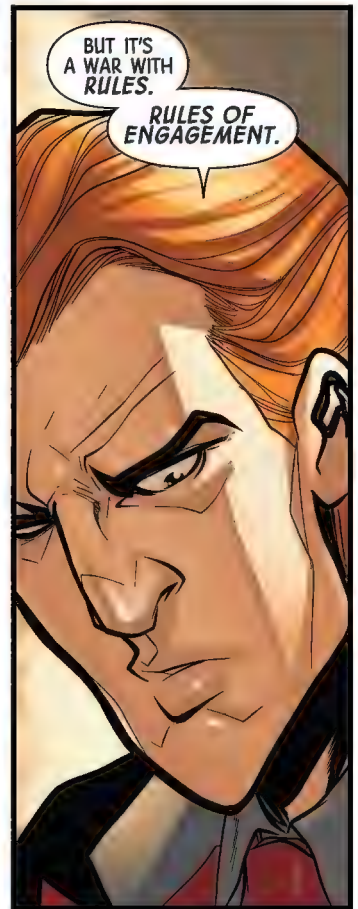


WHY "EVERY THOUSAND YEARS"? WHY NOT--

THESE ARE ETERNAL BEINGS FIGHTING AN **ENDLESS WAR**, JOHNNY. ONCE A MILLENNIUM IS JUST THE USUAL FRIDAY MEETING TO THEM.



**EARTH IS A BATTLEGROUND, HUMANITY IS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE AND THE WAR NEVER ENDS.**



BUT IT'S A WAR WITH **RULES.**

**RULES OF ENGAGEMENT.**



ONCE EVERY THOUSAND YEARS, BOTH SIDES FORM A **DEMILITARIZED ZONE--** A PORTAL--WHERE THEIR EMISSARIES MEET TO DISCUSS TERMS, AIR GRIEVANCES, TRADE PRISONERS OR WHATEVER IS NEEDED.

AND **NEITHER** SIDE MAKES A MOVE ON THE OTHER.



BECAUSE?

BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD MEAN NOTHING LESS THAN "**MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION.**"

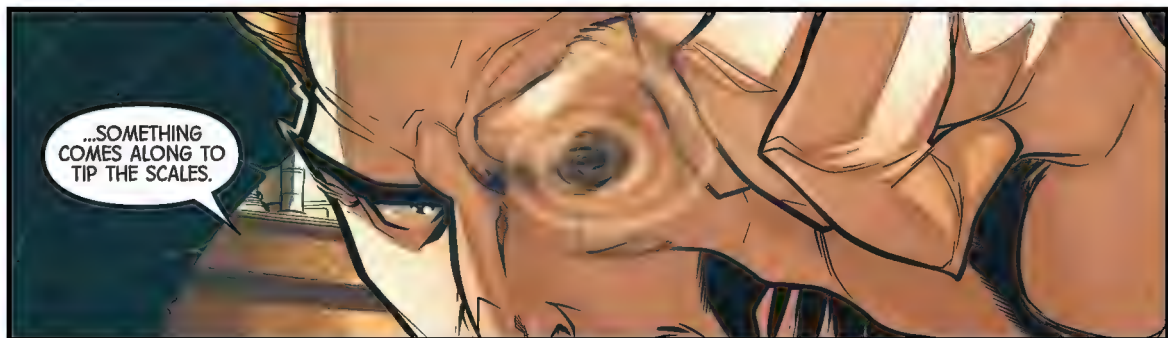


BECAUSE THE BALANCE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL IS **THAT** PRECISE.

IT'S BEEN THAT WAY SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME AND IT WILL REMAIN THAT WAY...

UNLESS...





...SOMETHING  
COMES ALONG TO  
TIP THE SCALES.



I'M NOT KEEN ON COINCIDENCES,  
AND JOHNNY SAW WHAT THIS  
BULLET COULD DO. IT'S NO  
ORDINARY SILVER.

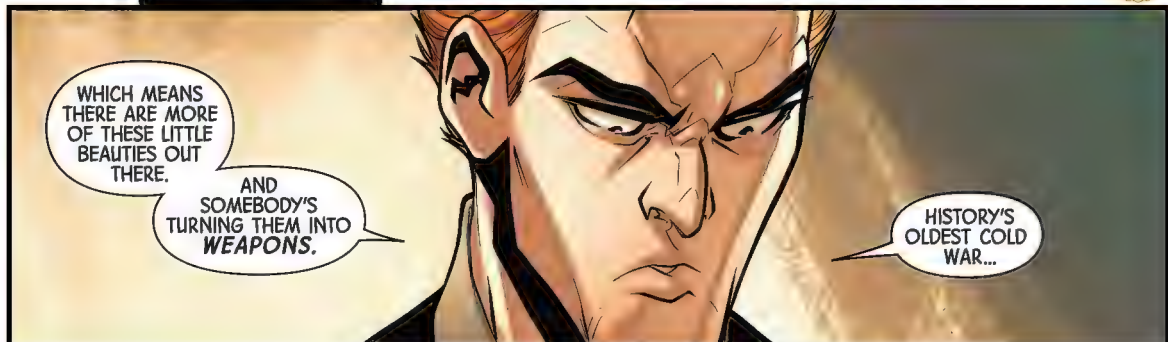
YOU'VE  
HEARD OF  
JUDAS?

BIBLE GUY  
THAT BETRAYED  
JESUS. HUNG  
HIMSELF.



BUT NOT  
BEFORE HE WAS  
PAID FOR HIS  
BETRAYAL.

THIRTY  
PIECES OF  
SILVER.

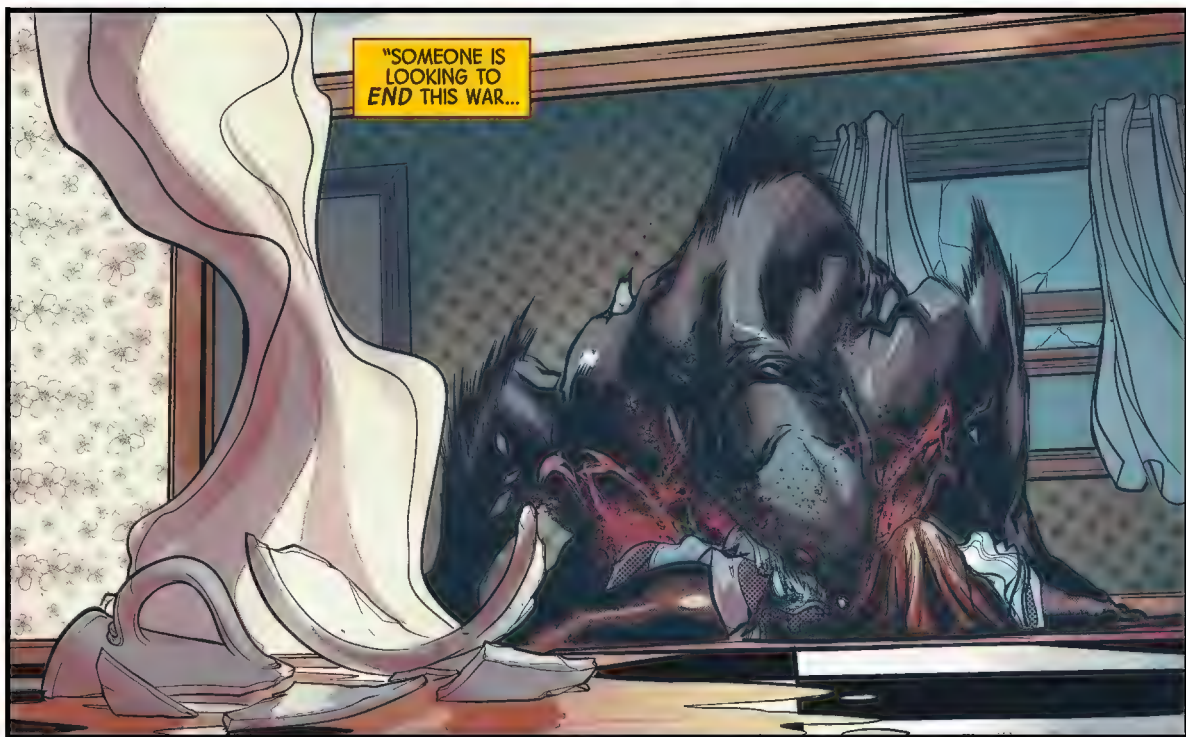
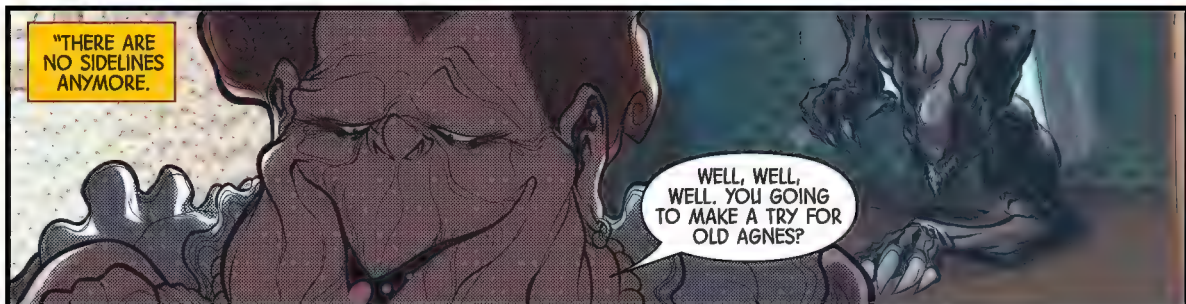


WHICH MEANS  
THERE ARE MORE  
OF THESE LITTLE  
BEAUTIES OUT  
THERE.

AND  
SOMEBODY'S  
TURNING THEM INTO  
WEAPONS.

HISTORY'S  
OLDEST COLD  
WAR...











**SOUTHERN  
INDIANA.**

WE GATHER  
THIS NIGHT TO  
PAY **TRIBUTE** TO  
THE LORD OF  
DARKNESS!

WITH THE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS  
SACRIFICE, OUR LORD SATAN  
WILL GRANT US STRENGTH  
AND POWER.

P-PLEASE.  
IF YOU JUST LET  
ME GO, I WON'T SAY  
ANYTHING. I **PROMISE**.

AND OUR LORD SATAN WILL  
**REWARD** OUR FAITH.  
HE WILL SHOWER US WITH  
ETERNAL WEALTH AND  
ENDLESS WOMEN  
AND--

YEAH, I  
WOULDN'T  
COUNT ON THAT,  
ACTUALLY.

I MEAN,  
**COME ON**, GUYS.  
ETERNAL WEALTH AND  
ENDLESS WOMEN SEEM  
LIKE A LOT FOR ONE  
SCRAWNY LITTLE  
CO-ED.

DAMN IT,  
FRANK, YOU  
SAID THIS PLACE  
WAS CLEAR.

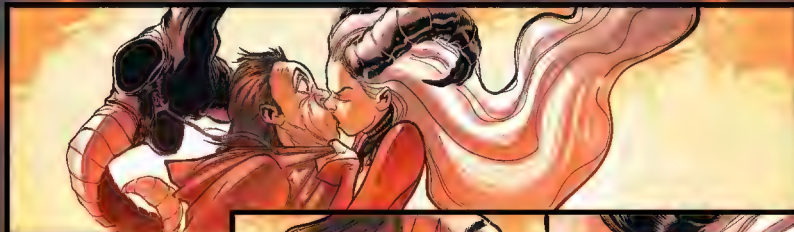
**GRAB  
HER!**

AND THAT  
PENTAGRAM?  
SLOPPY WORK. I  
DOUBT MY **FATHER**  
WOULD BE  
IMPRESSED. IN  
FACT--





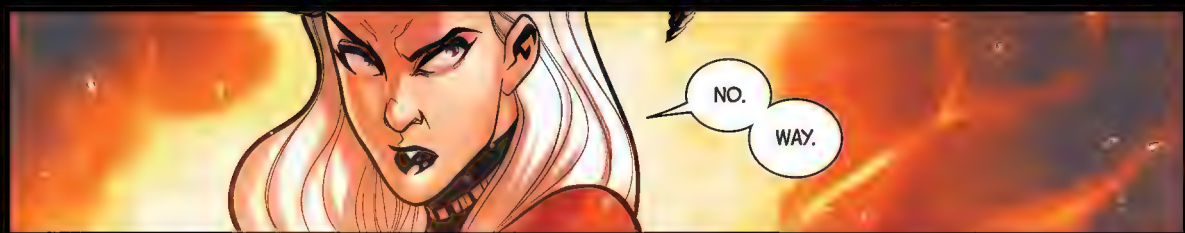




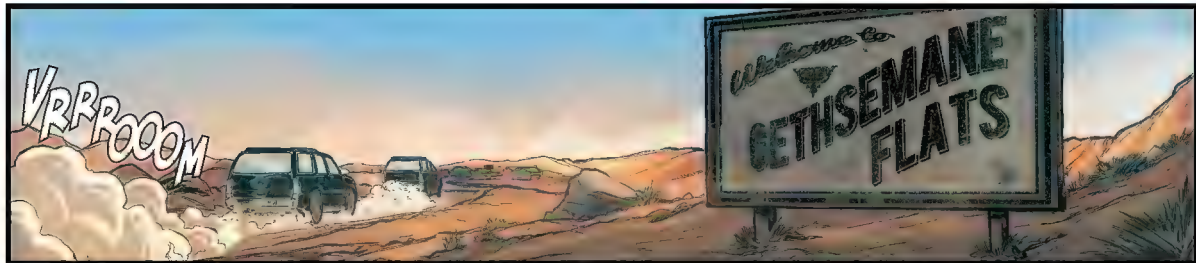
KISSING  
STRANGE MEN?  
FATHER WOULDN'T  
APPROVE...

VERY DROLL,  
BIG BROTHER, BUT  
WHEN ONE'S FATHER  
HAPPENS TO BE **SATAN**,  
IT'S DIFFICULT TO PREDICT  
WHAT HE WOULD OR  
WOULDN'T APPROVE  
OF.

IS  
THERE A  
REASON YOU'RE  
BOTHERING ME  
WHILE I'M  
WORKING?





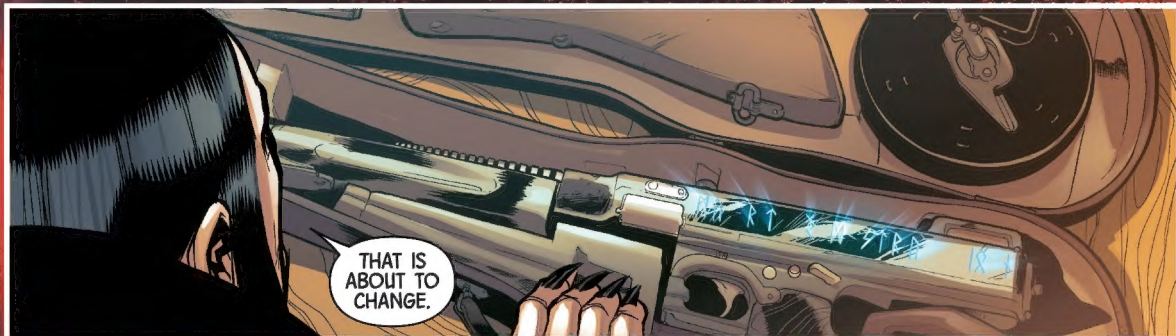






I ASSUME  
MOST OF THESE  
FACES ARE FAMILIAR  
TO YOU. YOU MUST  
SURELY KNOW  
**BARACHIEL**, AT  
LEAST.





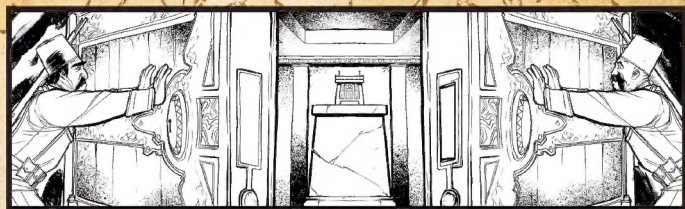








# NEXT ISSUE



**WAR AT THE GATES OF HELL** CONTINUES...